Motion carried.

Cochin Registration Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I rise to move that the Cochin Registration Regulation Amendment Bill be taken up for consideration.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—There is an amendment.

Deputy President.—You may move the amendment.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In clause 2, after the word 'for' and before the word 'Section', insert 'clauses (a) to (j) of'.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Amendment put and carried.

Deputy President.—Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Cochin Registration Regulation, V of 1084; hereinafter referred to as the said Regulation, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble put and carried.

Short title and commencement.

1. This Regulation may be called the Cochin Registration (Amendment) Regulation of and it shall come into force at once.

Section put and carried.

Substitution of a new section for Section 3.

2. For clauses (a) to (j) of Section 3 of the said Regulation the following shall be substituted :—

(a) "addition" means the place of residence, and the profession, trade, rank and title (if any) of a person described, and in the case of an Indian, his caste (if any) and his father's name or the name of his Karanavan or mother;

(b) "book" includes a portion of a book and also any number of sheets connected together with a view of forming a book or portion of a book;

(c) "district" means a district formed under this Regulation;

(d) "endorsement" and "endorsed" include and apply to an entry in writing by a Registrar on a rider or covering slip to any document tendered for registration under this Regulation;

(e) "immovable property" includes land, buildings, hereditary allowance, rights to ways, lights, ferries, fisheries or any other benefit to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything which is attached to the earth, but not standing timber, growing crops nor grass;

(f) "lease" includes a counterpart, an undertaking to cultivate or occupy and an agreement to lease;

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(g) "minor" means a person who has not completed his eighteenth year.

(h) "movable property" includes standing timber, growing crops and grass, fruit upon and juice in trees and property of every other description, except immovable property.

(i) "representative" includes the guardian of a minor, a lunatic or idiot.

(j) "signature" and "signed" include and apply to the affixing of a mark.

Section put and carried.

Substitution of the word "Maharaja" for "Raja".

3. In Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 59 and 68 the word "Maharaja" shall be substituted for the word "Raja".

Section put and carried.

Amendment of Section 6.

4. (a) In line 1 of Section 6 of the said Regulation between the words "Diwan" and "may" the words "with the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja" shall be inserted.

(b) In the same section between the words "Registrars" and "of" the words "or Joint Registrars" shall be inserted.

Section put and carried.

Addition of a new Section—6A.

5. After Section 6 and before Section 7 of the said Regulation the following shall be inserted as Section 6 A:—

Provision to perform duties of District Registrar when he is absent.

"When any District Registrar is absent whether on duty or otherwise, or when an office of District Registrar is temporarily vacant, the Joint Registrar, if there is one, shall perform all the duties of the District Registrar and where there is no Joint Registrar, the Head clerk shall be in charge and shall perform all the duties of the District Registrar".

Section put and carried.

Addition of a new Section—17A.

6. After section 17 and before Section 18 of the said Regulation, the following shall be inserted as Section 17 A:—

"Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Regulation, if in any case a document requiring registration has been accepted for registration by a Registrar from a person not duly empowered to present the same, and has been registered, any person claiming under such document may, within four months from his first becoming aware that the registration of such document is invalid, present such document or cause the

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same to be presented, in accordance with the provisions of Part VI for re-registration in the office of the Registrar of the District in which the document was originally registered and upon the Registrar being satisfied that the document was so accepted for registration from a person not duly empowered to present the same, he shall proceed to the re-registration of the document as if it had not been previously registered, and as if such presentation for registration was a presentation for regisiration made within the time allowed therefor under Part IV, and all the provisions of this Regulation, as to registration of documents, shall apply to such re-registration; and such document, if duly re-registered in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be deemed to have been duly registered for all purposes from the date of its original registration.

Provided that within three months from the date on which this Regulation comes into force, any person claiming under a document to which this sub-section applies may present the same or cause the same to be presented for re-registration in accordance with the sub-section, whatever may have been the time when he first becomes aware that the registration of the document was invalid".

Section put and carried.

Amendment of Section 49.

7. In section 49 of the said Regulation for the words 'a copy of all entries made by such Registrar, during the last of such intervals in indexes Nos. I, II and III' the following shall be substituted:—

"his indexes Nos. I, II, III and IV for examination and check".

Section put and carried.

Addition of a note to Section 71.

8. (a) In section 71, line 7, the word "document" shall be substituted for 'documents'.

(b) The following shall be inserted as a note to Section 71:—

Note.—Injury. The word "injury" denotes any harm whatever illegally caused to any person, in body, mind, reputation or property.

Section put and carried.

9. In paras 1 and 2 of Section 78 for the word 'Resident' the words "the Agent to the Governor-General" shall be substituted.

Section put and carried.

Addition of the word "Joint Registrars".

10. After the word "Registrar" wherever it occurs in the said Regulation the words "or Joint Registrars" shall be inserted.

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Section put and carried.

11. For the words "District Registrar" wherever they occur in the said Regulation, the words "Registering Officers" shall be substituted.

Substitution of the word "Registering Officers" for "District Registrar".

Section put and carried.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I rise to move that the Bill be taken up and passed at to-morrow's meeting.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.— I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

1. Second Crop Assessment.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I beg to move that "this Council recommends to the Government that the system of "occasional second crop assessment" now prevailing in the State be abolished." Before proceeding with the subject of this resolution I would make an earnest request to the Government and that is, that they would give their most careful and sympathetic consideration to this question; in asmuch as it affects the poor agriculturists of the State. I hope the Government will not claim that things are perfect as they are. No human institution is perfect, and it is only with the progress of time and in the light of actual working experience, that we come to know many defects and correct them from time to time. I hope the Government will approach this question in that frame of mind.

Now, to the subject of the resolution. In urging this House to recommend the abolition of the system of 'occasional second crop assessment' now prevailing in the State, I shall try to prove that this system is unsound in principle, inconsistent and illogical in practice, vexatious in its application, highly corruptive in its working, uneconomical and unproductive in its results, and also highly injurious to the general efficiency of agriculture in its ultimate incidence.

Now, Sir, to the first question of principle. It is a well established principle that the owner of property must have the right to utilise the property as best he could. Now, this right is denied to the cultivators of Cochin. Even where they call the land their own, that is even where they hold directly from the Government, they cannot freely determine what crops to raise, how many crops to raise, when to raise and so on. For instance, a man may find in any particular year that he could not with profit raise the first crop, and he would like to raise only the second crop. Or again, he may find that the first crop is mostly a failure and he would prefer to plough it in, and prepare the ground for the next crop in good time. But in neither case

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